

Portal.—Anat. Med. iii, p. 26.

Obs. sur la Nat. et le Trait. de l'Apoplexie, p. 358.

Perrier.—See Jour. Hebdom. 1835.

Rebollé.—See Med. Chirurg. Review, vol. 20, p. 445.

Stoerek.—Annus Medicus, ii, p. 123, et seq.

Sehuhr.—Sehmidt's Jahrbüch, 1811, i, p. 40.

Szerlecki.—Ibid., 1841, iv, ix.

Sebastian.—Geneeskundige Bijdragen, 1839, § 22, p. 27.

Spitta.—Dio Liechenöfnn, 1826, p. 258.

Stokes.—Clinical Lectures—lee. xi.

Testa.—Delle Malattie del Cuore, vol. 2.

Villerme.—Diet. des Sei. Med. tom. 3, p. 364.

Zuliaui.—De Apoplex. Præs. Nerv. Comment, 1790, § 26.

D. F. C.

ART. XXIV.—*Om de Sanitaire Forholde i Fængsler efter nyere Systemer.* Ved Professor FREDERIK HOLST, M. D.

The Influence of the New Penitentiary System upon the Health of the Prisoners.
By Professor F. Holst, M. D. 8vo. pp. 30: Christiania, 1840.

In every system of penitentiary discipline, the influence it may exert upon the health of the prisoners demands, unquestionably, a primary consideration. However excellent it may be in other respects, if, in its operation, any given system be found actually to endanger the health and lives of those who become its subjects, every dictate of humanity would call for its immediate rejection. Against the system of solitary confinement adopted in Pennsylvania this charge has been repeatedly made, and as it is one, if true, of sufficient force to cause the condemnation of the system on the part of every enlightened community, it demands a full and candid investigation. The validity of the charge, as urged against the latter system, is the subject of inquiry in the essay before us—an inquiry prompted, we understand, by a disposition evinced on the part of the authorities of Norway to introduce into their prisons such reform in discipline as the experience of other countries has shown to be best adapted for the prevention of crime and the reform of the criminal.

Dr. Holst, in the performance of his task, has evinced as much zeal as candour, availing himself of the various official documents that have appeared in relation to the new system of penitentiary discipline, he presents a very full and perfectly fair statement of all the facts furnished by them, calculated to show the influence which the several modifications of the system of solitary confinement exert upon the health of the prisoners; and has carefully compared the influence of the system as thus ascertained with that of prisons in which the plan of solitary confinement has not yet been adopted.

The facts we as yet possess bearing directly upon the question are comparatively few and imperfect, arising from the short time during which the system has been in operation, the few prisons in which strict solitary confinement, according to the Pennsylvanian system, has been introduced, and the improper location, and defects of internal arrangement and construction of several of these.

Dr. Holst has, however, made the best of the materials within his reach; his inquiry has been, to all appearance at least, conducted with strict impartiality, and the sole desire to arrive at truth. The conclusion at which he arrives is decidedly in favour of the sanitary character of the solitary confinement of prisoners, according to the Pennsylvania system.

It would give us great pleasure to present to our readers a sketch of the leading facts and arguments of Dr. Holst; but as the whole is based upon strict statistical details, and the different parts of the investigation bear so intimate a relation one to the other, we should find it extremely difficult to do entire justice to the author, or present the subject in a useful form before our readers, unless

we were to translate over two-thirds of the essay; we must content ourselves, therefore, with the translation of the annexed tables.

The first exhibits the proportion of deaths to prisoners in various prisons, upon the old and new systems, compared with the ratio of mortality among the communities generally in which the penitentiaries are located.

<i>Houses of Correction.</i>	<i>Mortality among the Prisoners.</i>	<i>General Mortality.</i>
1. Old System.		
(a) <i>France.</i>		
Maisons Centrales, - - - - -	1 in 21	1 in 40
Bagnes, - - - - -	1 in 21	
Average - - - - -	1 in 22.5	
(a) <i>Belgium.</i>		
Maisons Centrales since 1830, - - - - -	1 in 31.3	1 in 43
2. Auburn System.		
(a) <i>America.</i>		
Auburn, 1828-38, 11 years, - - - - -	1 in 54	
Singsing, 1832-38, 7 years, - - - - -	1 in 30	
Boston, 1818-35, 18 " " " - - - - -	1 in 20	
Baltimore, 1833-37, 5 " " " - - - - -	1 in 34	1 in 47
Average, - - - - -	1 in 34.5	
(b) <i>England.</i>		
Cnldbath Fields, 1836-39, 3 years, - - - - -	1 in 30	1 in 60
Wakefield, 1835-36, 2 years, - - - - -	1 in 34.5	
Average, - - - - -	1 in 32.2	
(c) <i>Switzerland.</i>		
Geneva, 1826-33, 8 years, - - - - -	1 in 58	1 in 40
" 1834-37, 4 " " " - - - - -	1 in 25.7	
Lausanne, 1826-33, 8 " " " - - - - -	1 in 31.5	1 in 39*
Average, - - - - -	1 in 38.4	
3. Philadelphia System.		
(a) <i>America.</i>		
Cherry-hill, 1829-39, 11 years, - - - - -	1 in 26.75	
Pittsburgh, 1828-34, 7 " " " - - - - -	1 in 31	
Average, - - - - -	1 in 28.9	1 in 41
(b) <i>Great Britain.</i>		
Milbank, Londnn, - - - - -	1 in 40	
Glasgnw, Scotland, 1835-37, 3 years, - - - - -	1 in 55	
Average, - - - - -	1 in 47.5	1 in 60
(c) <i>Switzerland.</i>		
Lausanne, 1834-37, 4 years, - - - - -	1 in 43	1 in 39*

The second table exhibits the ratio of mortality among the prisoners in each class of the penitentiaries included in the first table, compared with the ratio of mortality in the communities generally in which they are located.

* Ratio of mortality among the same ages of the people generally as of those who constitute the inmates of the prison, namely, from 16 to 73 years.

Average mortality among Prisoners.	Average general mortality in the different communities.	Excess of mortality among the Prisoners.
Old System. 1 in 27 = 3.70 per cent.	1 in 42 = 2.38 per cent.	1.32 per cent.
Auburn System. 1 in 35 = 2.86 " "	1 in 47 = 2.13 " "	0.73 " "
Philadelphia System. 1 in 40 = 2.50 " "	1 in 47 = 2.13 " "	0.37 " "

The third table exhibits the deaths from consumption occurring in seven penitentiaries, in the first five the Auburn system being adopted, and in the last two the Pennsylvania system.

Auburn, 1826 to 1837, 12 years, among 146 deaths	60 or 41 per cent.	were from consumption.
Sing Sing, 1830 to 1837, 8 "	302 "	68 " 22.5 "
Baltimore, 1831 to 1834, 4 "	72 "	43 " 59.7 "
Boston, 1818 to 1835, 18 "	92 "	50 " 54.3 "
Geneva, 1825 to 1837, 13 "	17 "	5 " 29.4 "
Cherry Hill, 1829 to 1839, 11 "	87 "	40 " 45.9 "
Pittsburgh, 1828 to 1834, 5 "	12 "	5 " 41.6 "
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	723	271 or 37 per cent.

The remarks of the author upon the facts exhibited by this table are replete with good sense; the conclusions derived from them would, however, have been more exact had the ratio of deaths from consumption in New York, Baltimore, Boston, Geneva, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh been compared with the ratio of deaths from the same disease occurring among the prisoners in the respective penitentiaries of those cities.

The facts which have an immediate reference to the effects of solitary confinement upon the mental sanity of the prisoners subjected to it, are clearly and fairly stated by Dr. Holst, and compared and analyzed with a good deal of care. We regret that the impossibility of condensing this interesting portion of his inquiry, so as to bring it within one limits prevents us from laying it before our readers. The conclusion at which the author arrives, after a full and candid examination of the subject is, that solitary confinement, if it be not less, is not, certainly, more liable to the charge of inducing insanity or fatuity, than the old systems in which the free association and intercourse of the prisoners is permitted.

It may not be uninteresting to our readers to state, in conclusion, that the authorities from which Dr. H. has derived the leading materials for his investigation are:—The Annual Reports of the Board of Managers of the Prison Discipline Society, Boston. The Annual Reports of the Inspectors of the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The Reports of the Inspectors to visit the different Prisons of Great Britain, London. Demetz and Blouet; Rapports sur les Pénitenciers des Etats Unis, Paris, 1837. Duceptianz; Des Progrès et de l'état Actuel de la Réferme Pénitentiaire, Bruxelles, 1838. Jnlius; Nordamerikas Sittliche Zustände, Leipzig, 1839; Journal des Débats, 1 June, 1840. De la Mortalité et De la folie dans le Régime Pénitentiaire, Annals d'Hygiène, July, 1839. Revue Médicale Française et étrangère, Feb. 1839. Archives Générales de Médecine, Feb. 1839.

D. F. C.

ART. XXV.—*The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Officers of the Retreat for the Insane at Hartford.* Hartford, 1842, pp. 36.

THE Connecticut "Retreat for the Insane" at Hartford, has long enjoyed a high character among the institutions devoted to the treatment of Insanity, and we are pleased to learn from the report of Dr. Brigham, its able superintendent, that its prosperity continues undiminished.

At the beginning of the year ending March, 1842, there were 83 patients in